

**Implementation Sub-Committee of The Task Force on Federal
Legislation
Of the Children's Cabinet**

MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

1. MINUTES March 03, 2006

Approved

2. FIP DATA UPDATES- RANDAL ROSATI

Randy presented an overview of the January/February 2006 Data Report that he prepares monthly. He noted the following:

- FIP caseload had again declined and that as of February 2006 there were 11, 840 FIP cases. This represented a decline of little over 1,000 cases since the preceding February. The decline in cases was reflected in all case types except FIP time limit child only cases.**
- FIP case openings were slightly up from last year and case closings were down from last year.**
- FIP cases closing due to employment usually represents half of the closings and in January they represented 41% of all case closings.**
- The percent of FIP adult cases with earnings in February was 19.9%, which was about the same last year.**
- The majority of cases exempt from work requirements were due to**

pregnancy or child under age one followed by illness/incapacity.

- There were 572 teen heads of household of which 55 were minor teens.**
- The average monthly benefit per single parent FIP case has remained the same for the past four months while the benefit for two parent households has fluctuated and is again on the decline.**
- There were 755 cases (9.6% of adult cases) under sanction in February 2006 as opposed to 912 (10% of adult cases) the previous year.**

Quarterly Report Data Update

- 30% of FIP households reside in subsidized housing.**
- 67% of children with child care subsidies are in center based care and 30% are in family care providers.**
- Number of Domestic Violence waivers has remained relatively the same for the past two years at about 260.**
- 19.4% of cases opened in December 2005 were employed as compared to 11.1% of the cases opened in April of 1997.**
- 49.6% of cases on in December 2005 were in their first episode of FIP assistance.**
- 70.3% of cases in December of 2005 had been on cash assistance for over two years and 46% of cases had been on for over five years.**

3. TANF REAUTHORIZATION – DONALDA CARLSON

· 2-PARENT FAMILIES – REFERRALS TO RJEP

The TANF reauthorization bill includes program changes that will impact the FIP program. Two parent families are being targeted for

greater participation. In the past two parent families who were not in compliance with work requirements because of non TANF exemptions or other reasons were funded by state only funds this practice removed them from inclusion in the participation rates. New rules state that all cases must be counted in the participation rate. This will require special attention since only 10% of two parent families are fulfilling work requirements. Ron Lebel has met with DLT to discuss program options and the Rapid Job Entry Program will focus on these cases.

Tina Janik described the actions being employed by field staff to engage two parent families in work. Field staff has gotten lists of the two parent families in their area and have made appointments with them with Social Caseworkers for assessment to determine who should be referred to DLT. The field experience thus far is that often there is a problem with one of the parents that could or does lead to an exemption. However, in many cases the exemption is one recognized by FIA and not one recognized by TANF. This disparity will make it difficult for Rhode Island to meet two parent family participation rates. An amendment to the FIA may be required to address this issue. An analysis of two parent cases is underway to determine the best way to assist these households to employment.

· FULL FAMILY SANCTION CASES

Sanctioned cases are being called in and referred to Rapid Job Entry to cure the sanction.

· APHSA CONFERENCE CALL Jeannette Cabral

APHSA is making recommendations on the following issues with TANF reauthorization:

- ü Work activities should be broadly defined;**
- ü Resolve conflicts with the fair standards act;**
- ü Exclude child only cases, kinship care and undocumented parents from work requirements;**
- ü Verification requirements should not be too burdensome;**
- ü Count hours missed with good cause toward required hours;**
- ü Allow for a transition period to new rules;**
- ü Use of TANF money for services to non custodial parent.**

4. STATUS ON GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO FIP – DONALDA CARLSON

Preparations to implement legislative changes to FIP are underway, although, nothing can be implemented until legislation is passed. July 1 is the target date for implementation of the initiatives that are passed. Governor's legislative initiatives include:

- Full family sanction after 3 months of partial sanction;**
- Completion of the Employment Plan as a condition of eligibility;**
- Reduction in cash benefits;**
- Two parent family initiative;**
- Counting time on assistance in other states toward RI 60 months.**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM. The next meeting was scheduled for May 5, 2006.